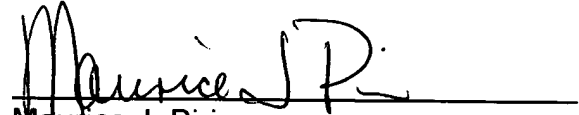


REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the application in view of this preliminary amendment. If the Examiner has any questions or matters that can be expediently handled by telephone, he or she is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (206) 359-8000.

Respectfully submitted,

Perkins Coie LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maurice J. Pirio", is written over a horizontal line.

Maurice J. Pirio

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Date: 2/2/04

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